THE FAN'S-ZINE

#8

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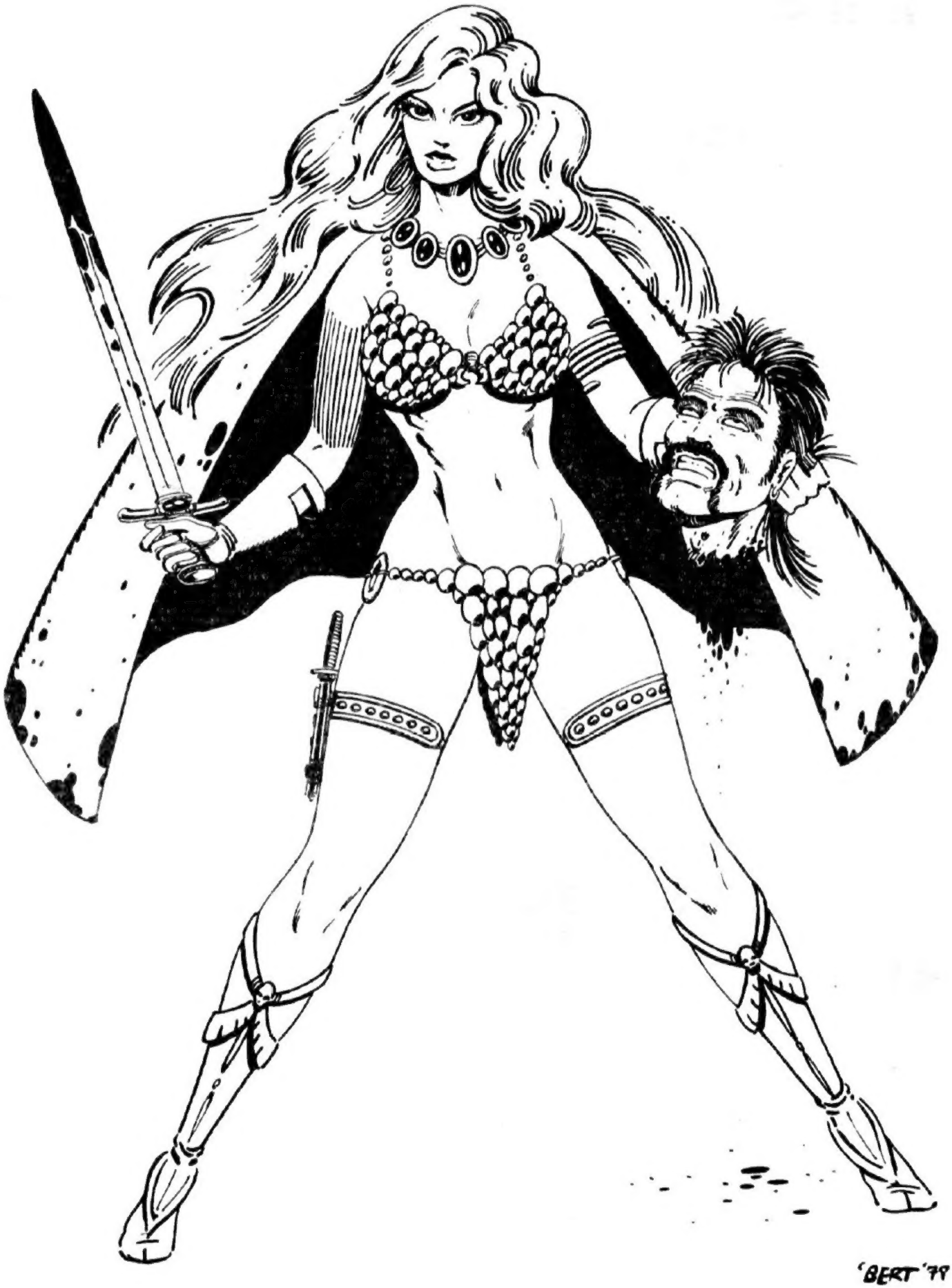
DAVE COCKRUM

& HAZLEWOOD·79


'BERT '79

STAFF

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Standing Heads

INTERFAN and Mark Heike

Subscriptions:

3 Issues (1 year) - $2.00! That includes two regular issues and our giant annual! Also one free 25-word classified per sub.

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Editorial

Something that has been going on for the last few years at Marvel really has me worried! As one travels to the local comic store, or 7-11, he is constantly bombarded with comics that introduce new characters. There's nothing wrong with that, except for one thing. Nearly every new character that is introduced is even more powerful than the last!! There was a time (not all that long ago) when the Hulk, Thor and a few villains were the most powerful characters in the Marvel Universe. Now, we have villains like "Michael" (in recent issues of the Avengers), "Galactus" and the Man Gog among dozens of others who can conceivably defeat every combined!! Marvel has always claimed that they are #1 because of their "high level of reality". But, even in the realm of comics, it is unbelieveable that a mere giant dinosaur (Godzilla) can humble Thor and any "Tom, Dick or Harry" can trash the Thing nowadays!! I still enjoy Marvel comics, but they are definitely going downhill storywise. Just because storylines are more complex than those of old or gives the hero so many problems that reading the book gives the reader a slight feeling of depression, by no means makes the story more entertaining. If Marvel doesn't do something about this situation, it will be too late. It is already getting out of hand that soon nothing will be able to fix the predicament! If Marvel keeps on creating characters who could destroy the world with the blink of an eye, DC comics will surpass Marvel because the comic reader will be going to them for "reality" instead of Marvel.

Contributors

This issue, more than any other, our contributors have aided immensely with this issue and certainly deserve special recognition for their efforts! Doug Hazlewood has joined our list of regulars in a big way!! Doug provided our front cover, the logo for the Perez interview and the Hulk illo. Again, Sam de la Rosa aided greatly with the production of this issue as well as the artwork. Sam provided the Kirby piece and many of the spot issues. Speaking of Sam, all the illos marked Interfan are copyright of Interfan Productions. Ever-popular Eddie Eddings also joins our staff this issue! Eddie's work has appered in the RBCC, TBG and TCR and now TFZ can be added to that list! Other new contributors include Rafael Kayanan and Willie Peppers. Both contributed a rendition of Gene Simmons of Kiss. Alan J. Hanley did our back cover with some help from Mike O'Neal. It is available for a mere $10!! Take advantage of this offer, here's your chance to obtain quality Hanley artwork at a great price! Order from: Alan J. Hanley, Rt. 2, Camp Douglas, Wisc. 56618. Order today to avoid disappointment! Other contributors include: Carl Taylor and Pete Iro who contributed some dynamic artwork, Doug Herring and Neil Riehle who teamed on a spot illo and Gilbert Hernandez, who drew (oh.bad pun!) dozens of favorable comments from last issue, contributed the stunning frontspeice of Red Sonja. Mark Heike, John Harris and I combined our talents to produce the Quad-Man strip.

With this issue, we widen the scope of TFZ a bit by adding a fantasy column entitled "ILLUSIONS" by Mike Rensel and "the Marriage Between Heaven and Hell", a column that proves that reality is stranger than any fiction! Comic reviews by Lloyd Lawerence and myself are also included in this issue. Sorry but Bill-Dale Marcinko's guest editorial hasn't come in for this issue!

We'd like to thank everyone who contributed, advertised in, purchased and helped out on this issue! We couldn't have done it without everyone of you!!

FEATURE STORY:

PRINCE NAMOR, the SUB-MARINER

The Prince is back, long live the Prince!! As many of you know, the Sub-Mariner will soon be making a return to the Marvel universe as a solo character but, with rising costs and decreasing sales, will he last long?

As I'm sure you all know, organized comic fandom makes up a great minority of the overall total of those who read comics. We're mature enough to handle heros other than those directly or indirectly patterned after the "Superman" type, but can the majority of comic readers? Why did Nova die? Especially after he was proclaimed as the new "Spiderman"!? My guess is that it began to mature of late and the majority of the readers gave up on it because it wasn't the "defeat a bad guy and have a happy ending" story. Thus, the plight of the Sub-Mariner! I, for one, am extremely pleased with the return of Subby's own book. Prince Namor is an intriguing character, but will Marvel bring the level of story to a pre-teen level or keep it at the level it was when it was cancelled? Will they take the chance when failure may again rear its ugly head? Hopefully, the majority of comic readers will be able to handle the Sub-Mariner!

The Sub-Mariner was one of the first Marvel/Timely characters. He originally appeared in "Motion Picture Funnies #1", of which only four or five are known to exist. He shared MPF #1 with the original Human Torch, Ka-Zar, the original Angel and the Masked Raider. Subby was created and illustrated by Bill Everett. Everett's Sub-Mariner was rather stiff looking, scrawny and the triangular head was more outstanding than it is now. His trunks were a dark shade of black back then, too. Subby became a regular feature in "Marvel Mystery Comics" from issue #1 through #91 and he had his own book which lasted until #42. There was a five-year lapse - June, 1949-October, 1954 - between issues #32 and #33. Subby was quite a hot number in Timely's early years! Along with Captain America and the original Human Torch, it was Timely's biggest selling heros. Crossovers and guest appearance roles were frequent for the threesome and Torch/Subby battles were numerous. (The 'ol fire vs. water schick ya know.) He regularly appeared in Marvel Mystery, the Sub-Mariner, All Winners Squad and All-Select Comics. In fact, Subby was so popular that his cousin, Namora, was granted her own book after several guest appearances in the Sub-Mariner's book!

Namor was dormant for a while (nearly ten years), but when he did come back, he played a very important role in the second age of Marvel Comics!! The new Human Torch made Namor realize who he was in "The Fantastic Four #4". One particular question arises from that issue, however. Namor gets weaker the longer he stays out of the water, so how could he even be alive after ten years out of the sea?? Think about it. Back to the story - he battled the Fantastic Four to a standstill and vowed to return! He did, two issues later with the infamous Doctor Doom! Surprisingly, Namor made his shocking reappearance the very same month as the Hulk debuted. In the following months, Subby teamed up with the Hulk to battle the Avengers (in the Avengers #3) and he was also behind (unknowingly) the return of another "Golden Age" hero - Captain America. He wasn't heard from for a while, but returned about a year later in Tales to Astonish #70, after a confrontation with Daredevil in Daredevil #7. He shared the book with the Incredible Hulk from #70 through #101 and received his own book (again) that lasted from #1-#72.

Over the years, the Sub-Mariner has had three persistent storylines: 1) Subby with or without his fickle subjects attacks the "surface dwellers"; 2) Subby must fight to regain or hold the leadership of Atlantis, or "the realm eternal", as it is so fondly called; or. . .3) Subby must battle some threat to his kingdom. Although these topics could easily become boring, most of the Marvel/Timely writers have handled them quite well.

Many factors have attributed to Namor's popularity. He's different. Namor isn't one of the many stereotyped heros who have secret identities, are highly respected by the public and always get the girl. The Sub-Mariner has been both a hero and a villain. He has both saved the world and attempted to harm it!! Just think of where he lives - the sea. Everyone has a hidden or outward fascination for the unknown. One portion of the unknown has been successfully marketed - Outer Space. Another portion of the unknown lies right on our earth - the vast seas themselves. If I was writing

SUBBY (cont.)

the Subby book, I'd concentrate more on the undersea adventures. Namor could battle sea creatures and discover new undersea civilizations. (Maybe an undersea war between a new civilization and the Atlanteans or a multi-part story with the two civilizations teamed to battle the States.)

As I said before, Namor is really quite a character! Gene Roddenberry must of thought so as Mr. Spock visably resembled 'ol Subs. The hair style is similar and of course, the ears have a similarity although I cannot quite put my finger on it.

Good luck Namor!!! (or Roman, that's how they got his name, roman spelled backwards. Honest!) Hopefully he will flourish as the first undersea hero should!

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Lord Seth	-	Tales to Astonish #98 I
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I-F

CARL W. TAYLOR 98
32379 WHIRO—

MARVEL COMIC COMMENTS

First off, I'd like to clarify the reason for this previously unannounced column and the obvious absence of the Marvel Comics news column. Some were complaining that the Marvel news which appeared in TFZ was "old news". I thought about the situation and realized it was impossible to bring you the news before the Comic Reader or TBG because of our publishing schedule. Since 90% of you receive TCR, TBG or TCJ, it seemed fruitless to bring you the straight news. Therefore, this column has evolved into the editor's (yours truly) comments on Marvel comics, news and related items. Before starting the column, I'd like to clear a few things up.

TFZ is again taking ads! Due to production costs and the drastic rise in circulation, prices have been raised. Please advertise if you can. It really helps!! If you cannot advertise, at least try to order something advertised in this issue! If response is good, I may have some people who advertise regularly. I have samples of all the items advertised in the display ads and they are all worth every penny and will provide you with sheer enjoyment!

TFZ has cut back to three issues per year. With school, sports, being editor of our school paper, et.al., I have little time for much else. From now on, I will only be doing half (or less) of the total writing.

Mike O'Neal would still like to sell custom drawings. His rates are as follows: 8-1/2"x11" illo - $5.00; spot illo - $2.50; and strips - $5.00 per page. Order from Mike O'Neal, 1500 Moog Avenue, Bay Minette, Alabama 36507.

MARVEL COMICS COMMENTS

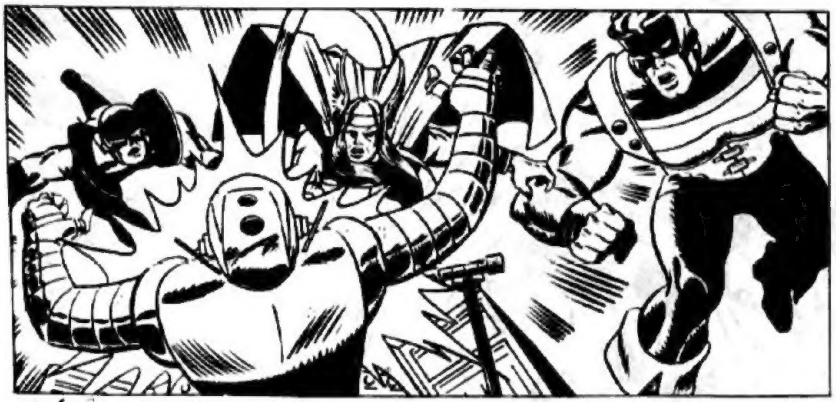
AMAZING SPIDER-Man #193: Never have I read such a depressing comic! 1) J.J.J. may know that Peter is Spidey. 2) Peter gets fired from the Daily Bugle. 3) Peter gets sick. 4) Ned Leeds catches Betty with Peter and belts him. 5) Mary Jane will not even talk to him. 6) Spidey has nothing to take out his frustration on. . .7) The thug who killed Ben Parker is now after May. Lord, what else can happen? Maybe Stan and Steve intended Spidey to have multiple hardships but the book was more entertaining when Spidey was a hero! Will it ever end?

THE AVENGERS #183-184: Quite a plot twist! Crusher Creel a/k/a the Absorbing Man battles the Avengers even though he just wants to be left alone. If Creel had an ounce of brains in that bald, egghead of his (and I don't mean he's smart), he'd sue the Avengers for attacking him when he really didn't do anything wrong. This issue brings out a few questions. 1) Why does Creel double in size when he absorbs certain things and not others? 2) Why has the Beast become so darn weak? 3) Why can't Hawkeye be an Avenger? Wahhh!!! and. . .4) If Cap's shield is, indeed, stronger than Iron Man's armor, why doesn't Tony Starck know about the "special" alloy? What are you waiting for? The answers? You tell me, I can't do everything, you know!

THE DEFENDERS #68-72: This whole Lunatik adventure is really starting to become rather interesting! What started out as a story that pitted some of the Earth's strongest heros (sorry, Avengers!) against a psycho clown with a pole has developed into a sense-staggering sage (so, I'm not always original). Congrads Ed, Herb, Mike, Rick, Bob, Al and Jim (Might as well credit everybody), you've really set the Defenders apart from the rest of the Marvel universe!

PETER PARKER, THE SPECTUCULAR SPIDER-MAN #28-31: I've really enjoyed the entire "Carrion" story! It's not just your average "hero/villain" confrontration. Carrion is a foe Spidey could never hope to defeat single-handedly. Carrion's origin was excellent, especially when contemplating original origins and characters when there are so many now. I've got a feeling Carrion and/or the Spider-Amoeva (yechh!) will be back. Although Carrion is sometimes similar to the Red Skull, he's still a very good character!

Next issue, I plan to review some other things like the upcoming Superhero pilots and a few surprises are also in store.



Sal Cutrona/INTER-FAN

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the FIRST ANNUAL TWILIGHT FANZINE AWARDS

Here is the official nominating ballot for the 1979 TWILIGHT FANZINE AWARDS, for fan work copyrighted or published from January 1978 to DEC. 1978. Please follow the voting instructions after each category listed. Any fan can vote and all categories do not have to be completed for your vote to count. Fans who have done work in any published fanzine during the nomination dates can vote, but not for themselves.

Deadline for nominating ballots is June 23, 1979 and when all votes are totaled the top 5 nominees in each category listed will then move on the final ballot. The final ballot and nominees will appear in UPCOMING VARIOUS FANZINES. All ballots must be signed by the individual voter and any nomination that do not follow voter rules will not be counted.

Thank you for your interest and happy voting.

Jim Saldana

JIM SALDANA

A. COMIC-ZINES, STRIP-ZINES, ETC.

1. Favorite Comic-zine_____
(A publication by fans that deal with comic strip art. Vote by title of publication, and not issue number.)
2. Favorite Writer_____
(A fan who has written a story for a comic-zine publication. List comic-zine, issue number, and publication date if available.)
3. Favorite Penciller_____
(A fan who has pencilled a strip for a comic-zine publication. List comic-zine, issue number, and publication date if available.)
4. Favorite Inker_____
(A fan who has inked a strip for a comic-zine publication. List comic-zine, issue number, and publication date if available.
5. Favorite Story_____
(A story from a comic-zine publication that can be anywhere from a 1 page strip to a 3 issue story. The information below must be filled in for your vote to count.)

Comic-zine title, issue number, publication date	Story Title
_____	_____
_____	_____

6. Favorite Character_____
(A Character who has appeared in a comic-zine publication as a regular or as a guest.)

B. NEWS-ZINES, MEDIA-ZINES, ETC.

1. Favorite News-zine_____
(A publication that deals with information on comics, tv, fanzines, etc. Vote by title of publication, and not issue number.)
2. Favorite Writer_____
(A fan who has written an article, column, etc. for a news-zine publication. List news-zine, issue number, and publication date if available.)
3. Favorite Artist_____
(A fan who has pencilled and inked spot illos, covers, etc. for a news-zine publication. List news-zine, issue number, and publication date if available.)

C. FICTION-ZINES, FANTASY-ZINES, ETC.

1. Favorite Fiction-Zine _____
(A publication that deals with short stories, poems, prose, etc., in the area of SF, fantasy, etc. Vote by title of publication, not issue #).

2. Favorite Writer _____
(a fan who has written an article, column, poem, short story, etc., for a fiction-zine. List zine, issue number and pub. date if available).

3. Favorite Artist _____
(A fan who has pencilled and inked spot illo., covers, etc., for a fiction-zine. List fiction-zine, issue #, and pub. date if available).

PLEASE PRINT YOUR NOMINATIONS.

NAME _____ AGE _____
ADDRESS _____
CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____
SIGNATURE _____

ALL NOMINATING BALLOTS SHOULD BE ADDRESSED AND SENT TO:

Jim Saldana
205 Casseday Avenue
Joliet, Illinois 60432

MORE TFZ NOTES

I just have a few items to get out of the way here. 1) The reason that the Warlock article did not appear in this issue is because the person who was assigned to write the article told me that he knew very little about the character and it was too late to get a new writer. Besides, I've decided to make TFZ's first annual a "Cosmic Issue"! It will feature articles on the Silver Surfer, Warlock, Captain Marvel and Galactus. It will be out in early January, 1980. 2) As of now (April 5th), we are five days from the final deadline and I haven't received Bill-Dale Marcinko's guest editorial. If it doesn't appear in this issue, it will appear in the next! Sorry!!!!! 3) TFZ #9 will be out in late August, a "back to school" issue of sorts. Reserve your copy now for only 75¢ postage paid and be insured against possible price changes! 4) Do me a favor and tell your friends about TFZ!! Also, if you know of a dealer in your area, introduce him to TFZ! If you get me a dealer who orders ten or more copies, I'll give you a free one-year sub to TFZ!!! 5) See ya later.

And Now...

THE QUAD-MAN

WRITER- JAY VAN BOCKEL
PENCILLER- MARK HEIKE
INKER & LETTERER -
JOHN HARRIS

THE TIME: FALL, 1978. THE PLACE: THE LAB OF PETER RENGEL, PROFESSOR OF HYPER-EVOLUTION AND "SPLIT-PERSONALITIES".
SCHOOL IN DENVER IS OUT FOR THE DAY, AND YOUNG PAUL RENGEL BURSTS INTO HIS FATHER'S LAB.
HEY DAD, ARE THE BANDS READY YET?
YES, I'VE JUST COMPLETED THEM. TRY THEM ON, PAUL!
AS PAUL PUTS ON THE BANDS HE SEEMS TO BE ENGULFED IN ENERGY, AND HE FALLS, SCREAMING IN PAIN!
ARRGGHH!
DAMN! I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN, A HUMAN BODY DOES NOT HAVE THE NATURAL INSULATION TO HANDLE THE INITIAL ENERGY OUTPUT!

PAUL BEGINS TO MOAN AS HE COMES TO....
OHHHHH
THANK GOD! HE'S ALL RIGHT!
PAUL, HOW DO YOU FEEL?
LIKE I HAD THE WIND KNOCKED OUT OF ME!
YOUR BODY NEEDS A SPECIAL INSULATOR TO HANDLE THE ENERGY OUTPUT!
LATE THAT NIGHT, THE PROFESSOR IS ALONE IN HIS LAB. HE RECEIVES AN UNWELCOMED VISIT.
A SPECIAL COSTUME SHOULD DO IT. I'LL TRY TO HAVE IT READY BY TOMORROW!
PETER RENGEL, WE ARE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ASSOCIATION! I'LL GET RIGHT TO THE POINT. WE WANT YOUR HYPER-EVOLUTION BANDS, AND WE WANT THEM NOW!

AWRIGHT, CREEPS! TAKE OFF!
OKAY, PROFESSOR. YOU WIN, BUT WE'LL BE BACK!

IT'S THE NEXT DAY, AND PAUL IS ABOUT TO TEST OUT THE COSTUME.
PUT ON THE COSTUME, THEN PUT ON THE BANDS. THE COSTUME WILL ABSORB THE ENERGY SHOCK.

DAD, I'VE NEVER FELT SUCH.....SUCH POWER!
OKAY PAUL, YOU KNOW THE STAGES. ENTER THE TRAINING ROOM. IT WILL MEASURE ALL YOUR LIMITS AND CAPABILITIES. REMEMBER, USE ONLY STAGES I AND II!

NIGHT FALLS AND PAUL IS STILL IN TRAINING. THE PROFESSOR RECEIVES ANOTHER VISIT FROM THE ASSOCIATION!!
ALL RIGHT, PROFESSOR! GIVE US THE HYPER-EVOLUTION BANDS! NOW!!
41
00
51
71
I'D RATHER DIE THAN TURN THE BANDS OVER TO VERMIN LIKE YOU!
HAVE IT YOUR WAY, THEN, YOU STUBBORN FOOL!
CRACK! CRACK!
PAUL HEARS THE SHOTS AND BREAKS OUT OF THE TRAINING ROOM!
WHAT HAVE YOU DONE TO MY FATHER?!
THE SAME AS WE'LL DO TO YOU IF YOU DON'T GIVE US THE BANDS, CHILD!
OKAY, ASSOCIATION! I'LL GIVE YOU THE BANDS! IN SPADES!!

DAD, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
PAUL, MY BOY, LISTEN. YOU MUST USE YOUR NEW POWERS TO.....TO ELIMINATE THE ASSOCIATION. BUT, DO NOT USE STAGES III AND IV UNLESS IT'S ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY. IF YOU USE THEM EXCESSIVELY YOU WILL... YOU WILL... OHHH.....
HE'S..... HE'S DEAD!
BEWARE, ASSOCIATION, THE QUAD-MAN WILL NOT REST UNTIL I'VE DESTROYED YOU ALL!!!
NEXT:
ALONE AGAINST THE ASSOCIATION!

FANZINE REVIEWS

THE FAN'S-ZINE FANZINE REVIEW COLUMN

LOLLAPALOOSA #2: 56 5-1/2"x8-1/2" pages printed completely offset with a tan card cover for $2.50. From: Mitch O'Connell, 266 Spruce Court, Boulder, Colorado 80302. Lollapaloosa is another in a line of art zines. But Lollapaloosa is vastly superior to most. This issue is a Neal Adams or Bernie Wrightson fan's dream. Lollapaloosa feature indexes on everything that both men have done and they are illustrated by Mitch, Adams and Wrightson. There is also an excellent art gallery in this issue with some of the best art I've seen by Howard Chaykin, Ernie Chan, Neal Adams, Marshall Rogers, Joe Staton and Mitch. The story section was pretty good. It contained three short strips: "Ghost Hunter", short but ironic; "The Dweller", contained a lot of barbarian action; and "The Origin of Death-Mask", very enjoyable and very well drawn. I anxiously await the continuation. Mitch's art is superb throughout! Art fans, especially Adams and Wrightson fans, will be sorry if they pass this zine up.

THE PROTECTORS #1: 12 8-1/2"x5-1/2" pages xeroxed for 25¢ and a 15¢ stamp. From: Jim Saldana, 205 Casseday Avenue, Joliet, Illinois 60432. This is one of the zines published by Jim entitled ARROW COMICS. Arrow is comparable to Paige Comics. I like some of Paige's artwork better than Arrow's, but Arrow's scripting is almost always better. Even though Jim isn't one of the most talented fan artists, few write better stories for fan strips than he. Jim's stories are exciting and well paced. This issue's artwork is the best I've seen from Jim. Nick Alenikov, Jr. inks the strip and does a really fine job. Nick really complements Jim's pencils well! This issue features a continuation of Jim's excellent "Space God" saga. It features many of Jim's imaginative heros. For some fan fun, check this stripzine out!

B.P. COMICS & CARTOONS #1: 24 5"x8-1/2" pages printed photo-offset for $1.00. From: Brian Pinkerton, 832 Bell Lane, Winnetka, Illinois 60093. There really isn't much good one can say about this strip. It features "herbie" as a high school outcast. He never gets invited to any parties so he has one of his own. Out of two hundred plus invited, only five attend and so it goes. The objects of ridicule in this issue include: an insecure, friendless boy, obesity, drug dependency, suicide, etc. I really dont' feel any of those subjects are funny - they are psychological illnesses and that's depressing even if the characters involved are indeed fictional in nature. The strip is crudely drawn and the only comical part is some of the answers Herbie gets to his invitations. Unless you're really into that kind of stuff, there are much better things being produced elsewhere. Brian, it's obvious that you have some talent, but you really suffer from bad material. Here's hoping that "Kurt the Worm" will be much better. On the other side of the coin. . . . . .

FANTAZINE #4: 32 8-1/2"x5-1/2" pages printed photo-offset, reduced and with a wrap-around cover for $1.00 plus one 15¢ stamp. From: Kevin Trabaris, 832 Bell Lane, Winnetka, Illinois 60093. I really enjoyed this zine. The art is better than most any other fanzine has to offer! Fantazine features strips: "The Vision" by Mark Heike, "Jade" by Ward O. Batty and Mike O'Neal, and "Photon" by Rafael Kayanan. All the strips contained good stories and excellent (got it right, Doug) graphics!! "The Professional Page" features sketches by Gene Colan, Rich Buckler and C.C. Beck. "Portfolio" features artwork by Ward O. Batty, Rafael Kayanan, Mike O'Neal and more! (I found out Ward is a fine artist as well as writer!) Written pieces include: "Trash & Trivia", "The Angel of Death", "Fanzine Report" and a Letters page. Only one complaint - in places, the layout was rather sloppy (Fanzine Report was rather difficult to read, etc.) but I'm sure as Fantazine matures they will be ironed out. A nice fan package I whole-heartedly recommend!!

WHITE RAVEN FANZINE CATALOGUE #1: 16 8-1/2"x5-1/2" pages for only 25¢ ppd. From: Steve Lightle, 8709 West 70th Terrace, Shawnee Mission, Kansas 66204. WRFC is an adzine that caters to fanzines (nice little ring to that). It's very well layed out and the ad rates are quite good! Full page - $16.00, half page - $9.00; quarter page - $5.50. WRFC has a circulation of 1,100 this issue. Most of the copies go to comic stores, so you'll be reaching people who may not know about fanzines. A good package at a very good price. Send Steve a buck and get WRFC plus Steve's superb POWER MASTERS #8!!

ULTRAZINE #12: 44 8-1/2"x5-1/2" xeroxed pages with a blue wrap-around cover for only $1.00. From: Matt Bucher, 2550 Windgate Road, Bethal Park, Pennsylvania 15102. Ultrazine is a refreshing little zine. It's editor/publisher, Matt Bucher (got it right this time Matt), radiates a great feeling of enthusiasm through the entire issue. The art ranges from poor to excellent with the majority in the good-very good category. David Heath's Fanzine review column, discussion of the Superman movie and "Are You Listening?" are among the best written features in this issue. In my opinion, this issue had five high points including: Eddie Edding's strip, Reed Studrivant's parody interview with David Anthony Kraft (great stuff, Reed!), the Nasty-Heike illo, Bob Wright's Red Sonja illo (I think its the best illo Bob has ever done!) and the Hartman Man-Thing centerspread!! With a slight upgrading of art and better layout, Ultrazine should have an ultra-year!

FANZINE REVIEWS

THE WANDERER #1: 16 8"x5-1/2" pages printed photo-offset with a stunning blue wrap-around cover for only 40¢ and one 15¢ stamp. From: Steve Streeter, 1104 West Lincoln, Mount Prospect, Illinois 60056. Plain and simple, this is the best stripzine I've seen come out of fandom yet!! The art by Mark Heike is better than most pro art in comic books today! Roy Reimer spins a classic tale also! With #3, I'll be taking over the writing chores, so I'm attempting to drum up the readership that it certainly deserves!!

GUIDED IMAGERY #1: 32 8-1/2"x11" pages printed offset on quality paper with a wrap-around cover for $1.25 plus 50¢ postage. From: Gary Phillips, 5900 South Flower Street, Los Angeles, California 90003. Gary states in his editorial that he is trying to create original concepts for fan strips. He certainly succeeds! Zachariah Cody, the Nth Man, is a cowboy in the distant future. Maybe I'm jaded, but this concept just didn't jive with me and I really couldn't get into the story. The other strip, the Red Avenger, tended to be more unified and was quite enjoyable!! The best thing in the entire issue was the illo of "the only super hero" on page 18. Its not a color print by Frazetta, but it relates a special, unique message! (I wish I would have thought of it first!) Gary's style is an original change of pace; easily the most "original" stripzine I've seen yet. Perhaps too much so far the fans stuck in the "Marvel groove".

PACIFIC #4: 60 8-1/2"x11" pages printed offset for $1.25. From: David Pulleyblank, Box 103, Denver, Iowa 30622. If you like fanzines and if you like to laugh, you'll love Pacific!! This zine is the funniest zine in fandom, bar none! (Even funner than Fandom Funnies.) Hysterical strips like "In the Supermarket" by Tim Lynch, "Cat Food Capers" by Eric Vincent, "Womandi, the Last Girl on Earth" by Chris Padovano, among others, will keep you in stitches throughout. Satire at its best by Pulleyblank, Chris Rock, Bob Andelman and more, coupled with the artistic talents of George Erling, Bob Vojtko, and you have the best satire money can buy. One more noteworthy feature is "FOT" by James Aiken - funny as hell!! If David can sell a few more copies, maybe he will put out another issue, so do yourself a favor and order a copy! All I can say is, these guys ought to work for MAD!! If you're bored, depressed or just want to have a good time, give Pacific a try!!!

DEAD OF NIGHT #285: 32 8-1/2"x11" pages printed offset for $1.00. From: Sunset Comics Gang, 9012 Evergreen Drive, Mentor, Ohio 44060. This is really the first issue of DON, but for some reason they decided to start the title out at #285. DON is a stripzine that features a wide variety of strips ranging from SF to barbarians to superhero action. The strips also contrast greatly in quality from poor to excellent. "Invasion" reminded me of the suspenseful EC SF/horror comics with the traditional unexpected finish. On the other hand, "The Defender", in addition to being a "swiped" name, looks more like the Black Panther. The strip is cliche and the art is quite crude. The remaining three strips are all pretty entertaining. In order of preference, they are "Death is a Dream" by Gary Dumm, "Olnotch the Barbarian" by Paul Curtis and "The Alien" by Flynn and Aten. An enjoyable zine for all you strip lovers!

ANOMALY #2: 34 8-1/2"x11" pages printed offset with a green, heavy stock wrap around cover for $1.25. From: Terry and Barry Marshall, 6121 107th Avenue North, Pinellas Park, Florida 33565. After seeing the ad for Anomaly in the Fandom Trader, I thought it would be a "crudzine", but when I received a copy, I was pleasantly surprised! This issue features an entertaining overview of the "Alien Enounters Con". The pictures were an added touch and it gave the reader the feeling that he had been there. The Battlestar Galactica feature was also quite enjoyable. The print and the photos, again, reproduced flawlessly. The fan fiction was also done well, especially for a zine in such early stages of development! The layout is nice, especially the use of border tape throughout the issue. (I think I'll start using border tape next issue - it really spices up the pages!) With an upgrading in the art, Anomaly will progress into quite a zine!!

THE COMIC WORLD #20: 56 8-1/2"x11" pages printed offset for $1.50 (six issues for $6.00). From: Robert Jennings, RFD 2, Whiting Road, Dudley, Massachusetts 01570. The Comic World is, without a doubt, the zine for all those who appreciate in-depth, complete and informative articles. This issue features an article on the Vigilante. It's 31 pages long and well illustrated by Thomas and Black. If you're the least bit interested in the character, or would like to learn just about all there is to know about him, this article is worth the price of the entire zine. Other features include an in-depth (what else?!) article on the Yellow Claw, "Kimball's Kolumn", in which Clay discussed many topics (his comments are rather interesting on subjects that are rarely discussed in a zine) and a meaty letters column. TCW is inferior to some zines in graphic design, but it more than makes up for that with its intelligent, well-written articles.

FANZINE REVIEWS

HORDE #2: 14 8-1/2"x11" pages printed offset for 50¢. From: Rick McCollum, 1718 Cedar #5, Cincinnati, Ohio 45224. This zine isn't a strip-zine per se, it's more like a SF story with illustrations. The story is really quite good and Rick's style of artwork seems to suit the story perfectly! The first section introduces the setting, situation, characters, et.al. The scene in Cincinnati U. after a nuclear bomb has been dropped upon it. There are two civilizations at war: the radiation affected people - the Mutants - and those left unaffected by the bomb - the students. There are two short stories/strips involving some of the characters previously introduced. The first involves a student finally finding the girl he loves only to find out she has transformed into a Mutant. The story is excellent as it relates the man's frustrations at what she has become but in the end they realize that they are still in love. The second story is alright. It involves "The Wandering Jew" and his quest to locate Christ. All in all, Horde is a very original, imaginative and entertaining zine!!

LULU REVU #2 8 81/2" by 11" pages printed offset. Eight issues for $3.00. From: Pubbug Press Pubs., 11220 Bird Road, Richmond, British Columbia CANADA v6x 1N8. The idea behind Lulu is great! Its just a crying shame that the three reviewers are so critical of the major portion of the fan press. Lulu is beautiffully layed out and the reviewers could write excellent reviews if they had more of a positive attitude toward the material that that they review. Their reviews remind me of how a non-fan might review a fan-produced zine. LR is a self-proclaimed fanzine but it seems to praise the zine with an editor who can affore to produce a "slick" zine. One of the very few exceptions to that statement was Afta #2. One other complaint, Lulu's cover is really quite grating upon the nerves. For example, "...wasn't Lulu's cup of tea.", "...wasn't up to Lulu's standards.", etc. One wonders what Lulu would rate herself?? Lulu would be quite an asset to fandom if only her reviewers would loosed up a bit!

FANDOM PLAYHOUSE #1: 20 half-sized pages printed offset for only 45¢ ppd!! From: Frank Antonides, 19 Lake Drive, Freehold, New Jersey 07728. A small, but enjoyable, zine! The best feature is the adaptation of Howard the Duck. It was well drawn and lives up to the duck's tradition! The article on Carl Barks and the fan fiction was also rather interesting. The art ranges from fair to good throughout the issue. The "big" feature was probably the Bob Andleman column. I found it to be rather confusing and pointless. I've read it three times and still can't quite grasp exactly what he's trying to relate to the reader. Anyway, for some fannish fun, try Fandom Playhouse!

SUPER-VILLAIN TEAM-UP RETURNS
by Lloyd Lawrence

This month Super-Villain Team-Up returns to the stands with issue 16. It marks the return of a unique concept in comics and should get more attention than it is. With issue 15 as a reprint edition, and the idea that it is an annual, it really isn't getting the chance it once had. The Red Skull - Hate Monger team came off very well and could be handled on a regular basis like issues of old.

When first mentioned, Super Villain Team-Up brings images of Dr. Doom and the Sub-Mariner in savage battle. It started with two giant sized editions in 1974 and spun-off into a bi-monthly series. The two characters battled other "lesser" beings in their conflicts and battles. Tiger Shark, Attuma, Dr. Dorcas, the Fantastic Four, the Avengers, the Circus of Crime - all were drawn into the titanic struggle. The Red skull and Magneto rated important enough to star with Dr. Doom themselves. The Shroud was a hero premiering in Super-Villain Team-Up #6.

Its returning issue is a landmark! The art by Infantino and Patterson more than rivals the likes of Buscema and Sinnott, Trimpe and Mooney; Haul and Perlin of earlier issues. The Red Skull and his Master Race tower over the slaves as should be portrayed without a saving hero. The Hate-Monger should have been more as he was listed as he was listed as a co-star, but it didn't hurt the issue overall.

But, as characteric of other issues, regular people play an important role. The captives of the isle are as much a part of the story as the citizens of Atlantis or the people of Latveris were to Doom and the Sub-Mariner. Super-Villain Team-Up uses the people to personify the actual evilness or motivation of the Marvel madmen. Even when Captain America or the Fantastic Four arrived, the reader did not put them in the spotlight. They enhanced the showcase of the real stars - the Super-Villains.

My only complaint is that the new SUTU is to be an annual. The Red Skull - Hate-Monger epic will probably spin off into another series, like Captain America, but it won't be the same as continuing the saga as it is to be told. Through SUTU, the Red Skull and Hate Monger are center-stage. What other comic can make a story without heros as interesting?

Super-Villain Team-Up #16 is worth all the effort put into the resurection of the title. Hopefully Marvel will realize how much the potential of this comic has been missed by fandom and the need for the concept. For now, it has returned and welcomed with open arms.

Eddie Eddings

George Perez interview pt. 2

As the logo says, this is the second part of TFZ's interview with George Perez. I'd like to extend special thanks to Bil-Dale Marcinko for getting the interview for me. The questions marked with an * were taken from Afta with written permission. Thanks to Doug Hazlewood for sending me the excellent logo also!! Now, on with the interview.

TFZ: What did you do before working for Marvel?

GP: Simply and honestly, I was a bank teller.

TFZ*: How did you get into fandom?

GP: I started comparatively late, compared to some old fans today, judging by the age groups. I got into fandom in 1968, when I was 15 years old. I had a lot of fandom life at that time, most of it unpleasant. But I did learn a lot from it, and it did get me the knowledge of how to get into the business in a professional capacity, and for that I am grateful to it.

TFZ*: How about fanzines?

GP: Fanzines are the greatest training ground for young talent. I've done stuff in fanzines before I was a pro. It gives you the slight ego trip of seeing something printed, and even if you were not to make it as a pro, and were to make a career out of fanzines, which would not pay much, but at least it gets printed - it allows for an artistic output.

TFZ: How do you feel you rate among all artists that work for Marvel?

GP: Well, I'd like to think I've proven my value with them, but that's a question I think only another person can really answer. One of the worst things any artist can do is over estimate his worth. Artists really can be replaced, so no artist can think he's worth more than another. It is a business that has to go on. My work, I'd like to think I'm valuable to them, but only they can be the real judges of that. I only wish that I can improve in order to constantly please them.

TFZ: My staff has been arguing over who is better, you or John Byrne. How do you feel you compare to John?

GP: John Byrne and I had a conversation to the effect that we both have a great respect for each other's art. I sometimes wish I could pencil as smooth as John can. John sometimes wishes he could pencil as rough as I can. The thing is, we're both used to our own pencils, so when we see another. . .I've had a great admiration for John, and you can't compare us. John draws things his way, and he has a style I can't imitate. We are two different artists. His X-Men are the most beautiful things I've seen in a long time. With Terry Austin inking it, he looks fantastic on that book, and he's very happy with it. It's a book he loves. And I've gotten compliments from him on my Avengers, which I love. When we put our heart into a story, I don't think it's fair to say which is better. In my opinion, John is one of the best and he's gonna end up being a hell of a lot better, too!

TFZ: Do you have a favorite Avenger, or is there a particular Avenger that is easiest for you to draw?

GP: As far as favorite and easiest, there are two different ones. I guess the easiest Avenger for me to draw would probably be the Beast. He has a certain cartoony quality;he makes it a little easier to handle. You can handle a cartoony character better than a real one. A realistic character has more restrictions. As far as favorite, the top three would be the Scarlet Witch, because I love drawing women, especially incredibly sexy women; Iron Man, because I love drawing characters with shiny armor, shiny skin, anything which is shined up 'til it looks like it's gleaming, with reflection; the third favorite, who is regretably not there often enough, is the Black Panther, because I like to put all the black in him and make the Black Panther and not the Blue Panther.

TFZ: How many pages do you do in an average day and how are you paid per page?

GP: The price per page changes. I prefer not to say anything about that. When I come back in my stride, I should be able to do two full pencil pages a day, or 4-5 breakdown pages a day.

TFZ: How does one get your original artwork without buying it from a dealer?

GP: I have an agent to handles it, ordinarily I don't handle my original art mostly through lack of time, but the name of the one who does it is Steven Diamant, 23 Scott Lane, Englishtown, New Jersey 07726, Phone (201) 431-0772.

TFZ: Do you have any interest in inking your work, or even inking over another artist's pencils?

I don't think I'll ever do inking on a professional basis. I can earn more money pencilling and I can do it a lot faster.

TFZ*: Are you interested in writing your own comics as other artists ha done?

GP: Oh yeah. I don't know if I'd write for Marvel. Maybe if a certain story hit me, then I'd try writing it, but don't think I'd do it regularl as a series. I'd like to write my own stories, related to comics, outsid the feild. I plan to do an outside project--a 150 page hardcover of a story I'll pencil and write. I've plotted it, I haven't written it yet.

TFZ*: Do you have any desire to work for another comic company?

GP: Marvel has been good to me, and I'm a loyalist from way back. I think I'll stay there. . .unless the company goes bankrupt, which I can't see coming. As far as working for another company - I wouldn't want to work for Warren. I don't particularly care for the company. As far as DC, the only thing that sometimes cajoles me to think about going to DC are two books, The Legion of Super-heros and the Justice League. But I don't like their management.

TFZ*: What are some of your interests outside of fandom?

GP: I'm a movie buff. I have books on movies, trivia and TV. I like filming. I haven't done much of it, but I'm interested in doing some film work on an amateur basis doing stories which I would write and,because of my storytelling experience in comics, I'll be able to direct because I can judge angles.

Writing I would like to get into. In high school, I did a novelette called the TERROR TRAIN that I'd like to expand for print as a straight novel, with maybe one or two illustrations. If Omnibus does well, I'll have it printed under that banner - with illus-trations because people will

NTER-FAN

JACK KIRBY-
S. DE LA ROSA / BLYBERG

TFN Checklist

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TFN is a new fanzine editor's organization. We are always looking for new members. Write: Ward O. Batty, 944 Austin Avenue N. E., Atlanta, Georgia 30307. All zines are printed offset, 8-1/2"x11" with a wrap around cover unless otherwise indicated.

* AFTA #3: Afta is my favorite fanzine!! If you're missing this, your missing our heck of a good time! Issue three features analyses of Warlock, the Swamp Thing, movies, comics, rock, comedy and more. Artwork by Hembeck, Hazlewood, Herring, Interfan and many more! Every fan will find something in Afta that he enjoys! Afta is available for $2.00 from Bill-Dale Marcinko, RPO 5009, CN 5063, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, New Jersey 07885.

* COSMIC STORM #1: CS #1 is due very soon and, knowing Steve, it will be an excellent zine!! Write Steve Bullock, 16831 Louis Court, South Holland, Illinois 60473 for full details on his zine.

* EXCELSIOR #5: 20 half-sized pages, xeroxed. This fannish package features three articles on Spider-Man, an interview with yours truly, part II of the Time Travelers, Jim Saldana's fanzine reviews and more. Art by McNasty, Harris and Lloyd. Excelsior is available for 30¢ and a 15¢ stamp from Lloyd Lawrence, P. O. Box 459, Claveracack, New York 12513.

* FAD #2 & 3: 56 half-sized pages for $1.35 or 8 issues for $5.00. This is Ward's first (double) issue of a new horizon in adzines. FAD has only 12 pages of ads! The other 48 pages are filled with an interview with Berni Wrightson, comic-fanzine news and reviews, a Creation con report annd more! Art by Perez, Herring, Wood de la Rosa, among others. From Ward O. Batty, 944 Austin Avenue N. E., Atlanta, Georgia 30307.

* FANDOMONIUM #1: 32 pages for $1.35. The highlight of this issue is the artwork with art by Alan J. Hanley, Blyberg, Hembeck, Peppers and more! Fandomonium features two strips, fanzine reviews, a fantasy portfolio and some nice fan prose, too! From Russ Stamets, 16430 Kimbark, South Holland, Illinois 60743. 4/$4.50.

* FANZINE CONNECTION: This zine is published bi-weekly, but I'm not sure about the page count or price because Bobby is making the transition from the Fandom Trade to FC again. FC is by far the best zine to keep track of the world of fanzine! Fanzine reviews and news, and ads make up this indespensable zine. From Bobby Sommerkamp, 1803 Bayou Grande Boulevard, St. Petersburg, Florida 33703.

*NO SEX #9: 46 half-sized pages. This zine specializes in SF and fantasy art and prose. This issue features a nine page off-beat strip by Earl Geier, excellent prose, fanzine reviews, a SF by Heath and art by top fan fantasy illustrators! NS #9 is available for 75¢ from Capt. David Heath, Jr., P. O. Box 102, Steele Hall, Fort Knox, Kentucky 40121.

* OUTER LIMITS NEWSLETTER #4: 64 pages, hard cover, high quality with over fifty photos. The newsletter for Steve's OL fan clubs features art, photos and articles on OL and other related subjects. A nice zine with art by Heike, Peppers, Dumm and more! I recommend OLN to any OL or SF fan!! From Steve Streeter, 1104 West Lincoln, Mt. Prospect, Illinois 60056.

* THE FAN'S-ZINE #8: A rag hacked out three times a year by some punk and his friends. Overpriced and overrated!

* VALHALLA #1: 36 half-sized pages for 75¢. Valhalla features three interesting strips ranging from SF to superhero action. This zine is quite good, especially for a first issue and it will surely improve! I really enjoyed this issue's cover. From Jim Yancey, 3714 West 10th, Indianapolis, Indiana 46222.

THE MARRIAGE BETWEEN HEAVEN AND HELL

Anyone reading a comis these days will have to admit that the characters certainly have no shortage of powers that are "superhuman". In this short essay, I will name many historical personages who apparently possessed similar extraordinary abilities, and I will attempt to throw some light on the process by which it is claimed these individuals obtained their talents. I have borrowed the title from William Blake's famous essay because it seems to me that being superior to the masses of humanity is often a mixed blessing - a familiar theme in superhero adventures. Usually, the hero must lead a dual existance to protect himself from public persecution. His everyday life is a constant struggle to avoid detection, and it is only when the heroic element is expressed that the balance is temporarily restored.

I recall Dr. Strange's use of mirrors to evoke the hidden force. Nothing unusual about that. A quick glance at human history shows that mirrors have often been the key to mysteries. The biblical Soloman divined the future with mirrors. Perhaps the most sinister of all the many evil omens plaguing the Aztecs prior to the Spanish Conquest was a bird brought in by some hunters. This bird had a mirror in its head which revealed the heavens and hosts of approaching armed men. In prehistory, mirrors were often used to obtain that most mysterious element - fire. The mirrors we use today, sheets of glass with mylar backing, are contemporary inventions. Ancient mirrors were highly polished surfaces of virtually anything that would reflect. Arab magicians often used black ink held in the palm of a child's hand. Gold, silver and obsidian were used, as were mercury and plain old water.

So, Dr. Strange was following a long line of experimenters. As one might expect, this experimentation has led to improvements in technique and equipment; he lined his room with floor-length mirrors. Now, part of the aura surrounding our shining ally is its reputed ability to "rob the soul". Recall the Greek legend of Narcissus, the Zulu's dread of dark pools and the East Indian girl's fear that gazing into a mirror will make her old and ugly. Paradoxically, (con'd, next page)

this superstitious fear of the unknown so common amoung the mob appears to be the first obstacle that must be overcome along the road to power. The system followed by Dr. Strange was identical to that used by fin de siecle European magicians; Alister Crowley, leader of the notorious O.T.O. secret society and self-proclaimed "Beast 666", had one of his temples lined with six huge mirrors to throw back the force of his invocations. Nor was development in this art stopped here. The little known Black Order, which flourished in Nazi Germany during the 1930's, refined the "soul robbing" ritual to a high degree of purity. Their leaders combined strobe lights with black-white frequency oscillations to a revolving mirror lined pentagon to create an atmosphere conductive to the will amplification and mind concentration they considered necessary to rise above the fear that paralyzes action. These last two examples illustrate the moral ambiguity that so often seems to accompany the mysterious. Christ raised Lazarus from the dead and it's a divine miracle. "Papa Nebo", hermophroditic oracle of the dead in Boodoo, does the same thing and it's a crime. (Can it be done? Ask a Haitian.)

The superhero is then related to the reckless seeker of truth. A man will have the strength of his desperation. The hero has his acquired or accidental strength. Neither has a soul in the same sense that the average passenger in a bus does. Both are, out of necessity, driven to construct their own moral codes of behavior. The quest usually is hidden; just as an evangelist disguises his love of money, the seeker's shields his love of knowledge from the cacophony of the crowed streets. He dons the cloak of a gentleman to minimize the abrasive reactions of everyday life. Slowly, the realization grows that anything imaginable in theoretically possible, that man is limited only by his knowledge. There is a need for a system that combines the wild claims of religion with the most exacting scientific method.

Consider the case of Dr. Dee. He was Elizabeth I's court astrologer and reputedly the man responsible for the destruction of the Spanish Armada. He lived at Mortlake, also the home of the legendary Merlin. His fortune waned when James I ascended to the throne and his library, the greatest in all Europe, was largely destroyed by a mob that stormed his home at a time when he was traveling on the mainland. With his partner, Edward Kelly, Dee convinced and performed experiments that shock and confuse even our modern minds. Much of the apparatus thay used is on oxhibit in the British Museum today. Suffice it to say that an imaginative person with a working grasp of advanced mathematics can only shake his head in wonder and admiration at the geometric and mechanical conceptions this team employed.

After his death, no written records could be found of Dee's work. James I had been a fundamentalist armed with his kingly authority and a firebrand. It occurred to someone that Dee may have buried his writings as a precaution. A wealthy individual purchased the estate and had the entire grounds dug up. They hit the jackpot. The famous scholar Meric Casaubon was employed to compile the salvageable papers into a book. Unfortunately, only Dee's Sixth Book was considered safe enough to publish. In 1659, the infamous A True and Faithful Relation of What Passed for Many Years Between Dr. Dee and Some Spirits, Etc. was released upon a world that has never been the same.

(TO BE CONTINUED)
(on page 44)

LETTERS

The Fans of the Zine - Letters Page

Dear Jay,

TFZ #7 was a great effort! Highlights of #7 include all the great art throughout, fanzine reviews, Red Skull page and I mildly enjoyed "Favorites" by Jeff Roberts. The Dr. Strange analysis also was appreciated! Again, ooooh that art! Heike's Dr. Strange on back, Doug H.'s cover and this "Gilbert Hernandex's art as well as Kirby's, well, inked pin-up were excellent! O'Neal's Iron Man, Herring's Dr. Fate (Yes! Please let DC characters in TFZ!!) and the Skull pin-up were hard to beat also.

I thought the Capt. America TV show was great, although similarities to the comic were virtually zero. I'm really glad that these Marvel heros are getting this exposure on television. I still think the Dr. Strange was the best for overall loyalty to comics and fun!!

Anyhow, please continue the good improvements in TFZ until you get the circulation up to 1000 next year (yes, I think we can do it if you and all the present readers work to get there) when we'll really start rolling!

Continue to plug AFTA--Bill is in some pretty hard times as I'm sure you know. . .did he tell you about the Seuling/Planet ripoff? What a gripe!!! Why don't you buy a few issues to sell to some of your readers, maybe? That's a publication I'd really like to see suceed!

Well, that's all for now. . .

Best,
Bob Shippee
8202 Buffalo Avenue
Niagrar Falls, NY 14304

***I feel I have really been blessed with extremely talented artists. Eddie Eddings, Doug Hazlewood and Rafael Kayanan are among my favorite fan artists and they all have contributed to this issue. I am really pleased that so many of my readers are behind me and feel they are a real part of TFZ, too! I certainly will continue to plug AFTA; it's the best fanzine on the market today! I'd like to sell copies to my readers. How about it guys and gals. Order AFTA from me and I'll give you a 10% discount and a free 25 word classified in TFZ!!

How's that for a deal? Bob, I have heard nothing about the Sueling/Plant "rip-off". Fill me in! It'll make a good topic for next issue's "Gripe Page"!

*****

Dear Jay,

Received THE FAN'S-ZINE #7 today. The cover was good, but I think the Kirby illo would have been a better choice. It's a more professional, more saleable appearance. But Herring is always a fine artist and this is no exception. I thought the front piece was weak, there was nothing visually exciting about it. I also thought the editorial was weak. As an editor myself, I too am guilty of what you did, but am trying to avoid doing this in the future. I think you would want to use this space to reflect on the plans and hopes for future issues. I really liked the Iron Man illo on page five though, it was a very powerful piece. The Iron Man article was interesting, but be careful to try and give us information that we don't already know. I found the column did bring out a few points that I didn't know.

I did enjoy the zine reviews. There was some good meaty stuff here. The Kirby piece was also well done. Too many times the art by pros suffers at the hands of a fan inker but Machlan kept to the style very nicely. Carl Taylor has always been one of my favorites and his illo was appreciated.

I found your comments on the Red Skull amusing If you look at it, you're "original" villian is a direct swipe from the Joker. Look at it. The Joker has a bizzare face, let his victims with a similar Joker grin after he kills them, and was very simply dressed. So there was swiping even in the "Golden Age". The de la Rosa Skull was another fine piece in this issue. Jeff's Favorites column is an intriguing idea.

The art was overall good and the layout was very solid. I liked the type. It set it apart from most other zines. My only other suggestions would be to use more letterheads or larger titles for your columns. Also, there were a lot of typos. Not misspellings really, but simple mistakes that can be corrected by slowing down and looking over things as the typing is done, or by having someone proofread the final copy before it goes to the printer. Overall you've got a good product. TFZ has a feeling of experience about it Well...keep in touch

Ward O. Batty
944 Austin Ave. NE
Atlanta, GA 30307

MORE LETTERS

***Ward, I couldn't use the Kirby illo as a cover because it had no room for a logo and I received it after Doug had the cover completely done anyway. I agree with you about the editorial, I'll try to prevent it in the future. Everybody seems to enjoy the fanzine reviews and I enjoy doing them so they'll be a part of TFZ for a long time! Well, Ward, you really caught me with my pants down on the Skull article. I never thought of the Joker when I was writing the article, but you are absolutely right! Sorry! As you can see, this issue has many mastheads, good suggestion, Ward. I've acquired a new typist, so you'll never find so many typos in TFZ again (knock on wood).

*****

Dear Jay,

Thanks for the copy of your fanzine. It was well put together. I especially liked the artwork that your contributors have supplied. The Kirby/Machlan piece was superb. Mike was going to do some work for our comic company (Conner's Comics Group), but due to unseen circumstances had to stop.

Jeff's gripe was totally unfair to all concerned. It's just the same old problem of fans thinking they know what's going on in the comic world without having the slightest idea of what it's really like. Marvel, (Stan, in particular) had very little to do with the HOSTESS ads. And what the hell, they deserve to make their money just as everybody else does. I agree it looks like a total sell-out, but they're finally making the money they deserve and haven't gotten in the past. If it wasn't for the licensing of their characters there would be no comics. That's what pays the bills.

Hang loose!

Bob Thiessen
P. O. Box 562
Florence, Kentucky 41042

***Bob, thanks for the favorable comments. Even though fans don't like it, licensing certainly is necessary. I've heard that all a comic company's profits come from licensing. Bob and Steve Conner will soon be publishing a new line of comics soon. See the fanzine news page for more on that!

*****

Dear Jay,

Thanks for sending me the Fan's-Zine #7! It brought back sweet memories of those innocent and carefree days when I first discovered the wonderful world of fandom. The overall design of the zine is quite attractive, and you have some remarkable artists working for you as well as some up and coming drawers who you generously give space to. Your writings have the one element crucial to the success of a zine--infectious enthusiasm. One thing you need to work on though proofreading and less creative spelling. There were some real knee slappers in #7.

Good luck with your zine.

David Pulleyblank
Box 103
Denver, Iowa 50622

***As I said before, I've gotten a new typist and the typos last issue were typing errors. "Natzi", Advenger", et.al.

*****

Dear Jay,

Thanks for THE FAN'S-ZINE #7. I really think you've got one of fandom's best publications. My attention was held tightly as I looked through the pages of great art and interesting, friendly articles.

I enjoyed the whole issue, but to me there was a few things that seemed outstanding. The Kirby/Machlan drawing was fantastic! I think it's one of the best illoes I've seen in years. Mike's inking really seemed to give it new substance.

Carl Taylor's Avengers illustration was great! He definitely has captured the Marvel style, yet even Marvel would be hard-pressed to come up with a more dynamic piece of art. Still, the artist who impressed me most is Gilbert Hernandez. It's strange that I've never heard of him before. Not only is Gil a talented artist, but he's also an original one, with a style that really impresses me.

The Articles ranged from good to great! They were interesting and well written. More than that I really don't feel qualified to say. Oh--this may sound strange but, I really liked the type. It was nice and clear--a pleasure to read! And above all else, THE FAN'S-ZINE didn't seem in the least bit pretentious. It's really a relief to read a fanzine that doesn't attempt to force itself on you. TFZ is written in a relaxed, calm way. It's like there's an underlying optimism that you don't find in many fanzines these days. Over all, a great change of pace!

Jay, thanks for introducing me to THE FAN'S-ZINE!!

Steve Lightle
8709 W. 70th Terrace
Shawnee Mission, Kansas 66204

Even More Letters

***Thanks for the comments, Steve! Believe it or not, over half of the loc's I received mentioned how much they enjoyed the new type' I think that Gil is quite good also! I also had never seen his art before he sent me his contributions. Check out the info on Steve's zines on the Fanzine News page.

*****

Dear Jay,

THE FAN'S-ZINE has truly arrived! Artwise, issue seven was suprior. There just wasn't a bad piece in the whole zine The articles on Iron Man were handled well "Favorites" is a welcome addition to TFZ. I really like the Fanzine News column. (I like any fanzine news') I wish Mark Heike's 1st place DD entry would have reproduced better. That way I could have figured out how it beat the excellent 2nd place drawing! Let's see more writing like Dr. Strange and Illusions.

Reed Sturdivant
302 Hollomon St.
Kenton, Tennessee 38233

***You will be seeing more of "Illusions" in every issue of TFZ. It was and still is written by Mike Rengel and I think he does a fine job with it! I've received praise annd criticism about Jeff Robert's "Favorites" Let me know what the rest of you think - why do you like or dislike "Favorites".

*****

Jay,

Your "The Fan's-Zine" is great! Especially the KISS page, so you're a KISS freak huh, well, so am I, - so answer this: Peter Criss before joining KISS was in a band called "Chelsea", before the band's break-up they had lined up a record contract, with what record company?

Jeff Cook
2841 Brunswick
Norton Shores, Michigan 49444

***I remember reading which company it was in one of my magazines, but I've looked for over an hour and cannot find it! Let me guess Capitol Anyone else know? The real reason I printed this letter is to set up a little poll I've received a lot of mail commenting on me putting KISS in TFZ, some favorable, some dead set against it. I like KISS, but you, the reader, are really the real editor Vote, KISS or no KISS That is the question!

*****

Dear Jay,

Thanks for TFZ with an apostrophe yet

The articles were all pretty dull, but I think I can crank out a page of comments A comic unpredictable? The heros always win, do they not?

The Spider-Man and Hulk TV series suck camel peters so much even Chuck Barris is ashamed. In other words, they are terrible. The shows would be passable if they were faithful to the books even a tiny bit. For instance, would it be so hard to give the actor playing J. Jonah Jameson a flat-top? The Hostess ads have been in Marvel comics for at least four years now, so it's a little late to gripe. Star Warts is not above criticism. I saw the damn thing three times, enjoyed myself greatly, but think it is far from being a "Great" movie. Give me M*A*S*H any day of the week.

The abbriviation of science fiction is SF, thank you. Only jerk-offs use sci-fi.

I wish you would kill everyone connected with "Gilligan's Island" and destroy the remaining copies of the old series I can't believe I liked that show once.

Guanteramana,

Tony Renner
P O Box 851
Panama, Illinois 62077

***Well, you've insulted my zine and called me a "jerk-off". Anything you'd like to say before I have my turn, Mr Renner? Okay, now that you re through, I'll have my say You are the only person who has said anything unfavorable about the articles in TFZ. I don't mind criticism as long as someone tells me why - and one other thing - I enjoy Hulk, Spider-Man and, yes, even Gilligan s Island

*****

Please address all letters or comments to the address below. We enjoy hearing from every one of you, even if you call me names'

Jay Van Bockel
500 Willowrock Drive
Loveland, Colorado 80537

KISS News

* Of all the four solo albums only one single made it into the top thirty. It was Ace Frehley's "New York Groove", which hit its peak at #19. Suprisingly, Ace's album was the best of the four, while Gene's was the worst!

* Kiss' newest album s should now be available throughout the country. It's entitled - "Love and Kisses".

* Many of you have responded to our Kiss news and feature column with favorable and opposing comments. In essense, you, the readers, are the editors so let me know if you'd like us to continue the column or drop it!

SW News

* The first sequel to Star Wars - "The Empire Strikes Back", is now being told in the new syndicated Star Wars strip by Russ Manning.

* The forementioned sequel to Star Wars "The Empire Strikes Back" is to be released in the Summer of 1980.

* Marvel Note #1: The term "Hulk Out" is so widely used on the set of the CBS series "the Incredible Hulk" is being considered for entry in the new Webster's Dictionary. The entry would say something like this: hulk out: to go beserk, to destroy things.

* White Raven Publications: Power Masters #8 is now available for 75¢ and a 15¢ stamp. It's great! The art is unique and the story is excellent. Also available soon will be "Fantasy & Fairy Tales". It will feature an adaptation of "The Elves & the Shoemaker" by Jerry Ordway, an adaptation of the Hawaiian legend "The Maid of the Twilight" by Steve and an original fantasy story by Brent Nighswonge. It will soon be available for 75¢ and a 15¢ stamp from Steve Lightle, 8709 West 70th Terrace, Shawnee Mission, Kansas 66204.

* Bob Theissen and Steve Conner of Conner's Comics Group have been forced to cancel their comics that were soon to have been nationally distributed to high production costs and fear of poor sales due to the price they would have to charge. Too bad. An alternative comics group with such distribution would have been a good thing for fandom!! If you'd like to contact them on the matter, see their address in the letters page. Below is a cover of one of the cancelled titles.

WHITE

RAVEN

* Paige Comics: Sad to report that Paige Collector's Edition has been shelved due to lack of support. Steve says the contents will be divided into three or four different zines. Paige Profile #4 is now available for 50¢ and a 15¢ stamp. I will be scripting "The Wanderer" from #3 on. Send Steve a SASE for a complete list of all the great zines Paige has to offer. Steve Streeter, 1104 West Lincoln, Mount Prospect, Illinois 60056.

* SUNSET COMICS GANG: Due to lack of support, Sunset has been forced to cancel all of their titles except Night Comics and Weird Fantastic Tales (pulp). They are both quarterly and subs are available at the following rates: Night Comics - 4 issues, $5.00; and WF Tales - 4 issues for $3.95. Brian has told me that he needs 150 more subscribers to keep these two titles alive for the rest of this year! See his ad in this issue.

* Still available from Sunset are the following books: NIGHT COMICS #285 (see Fanzine review section). NIGHT COMICS #286 "Space War", a graphic novel by Brian and Stan Bycko. "Explorer One", drawn by Mark Hieke! And "To Collect", a new stunner by Filthy McNasty! Only $1.25 and. . .WEIRD FANTASTIC TALES #2, features no less than 10 stories! Included in this PULP - "Collision", the beginning of a 250 page novel! "The Waiting Room: 202 AD", "Pop", "A Friend I have Gained", "Dark Lady #1", "Dog Owners of New York City", and "Opus #2". 40 pages for only 99¢ ppd!!! Support the SUNSET COMICS GANG and try a title or two of their comics and pulps!! Brian Flynn, 9012 Evergreen Drive, Mentor, Ohio 44060.

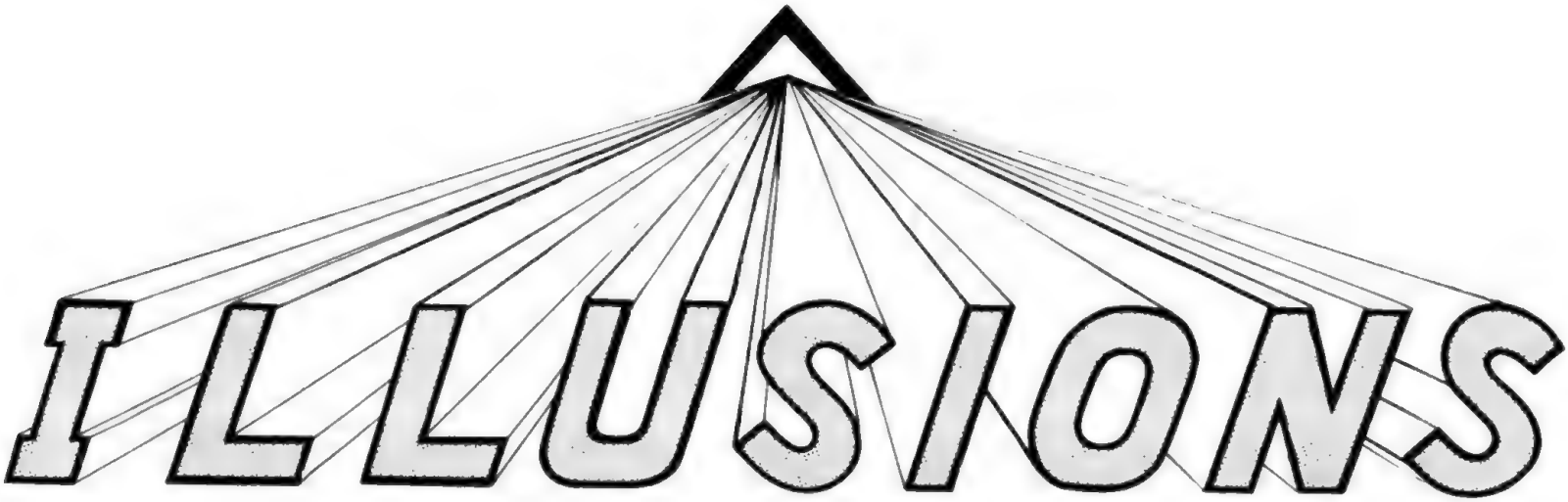
Fanzine News (Continued)

* Now available - HORDE - the monthly zine of wild adventure and fantasy!! $4.00 for six issues!! Sword and Sorcery portfolio - four classic plates - $2.00! And coming - Sander Hall Funnies, Journey to Atlantis and Meavy Hetal. Write to Rick McCollum, 1718 Cedar #5, Cincinnati, Ohio 45224. And look for - Lethal Ladies, a portfolio of Red Sonja, Gamora, Hawkgirl and Ms. Marvel for a mere $2.00! All from the studio of Rick McCollum in '79!!

* THE FANZINE CONNECTION RETURNS: Yes, FC is back under the editorialship of Bobby Sommerkamp! FC is the best guide for all fanzine editors and readers! FC is now being published bi-weekly and subs are as follows: 6 issues - $3.00; 12 issues - $6.00; and 24 issues - $12.00. Indispensible for fanzine enthusiasts! See more on FC in the TFN checklist in this issue.

* THE FANZINE NETWORK: A new organization of fanzine editors that promotes the members fanzines has been organized by Ward O. Batty. We are always looking for new members! See TFN checklist in this issue. WZINE, the apa for the TFN can now be purchased by fandom! Each issue features member-zines from the members. Send 50¢ and a 15¢ stamp to Ward O. Batty, 944 Austin Avenue N. E., Atlanta, Georgia 30307 for a sample copy.

* ARROW COMICS: A Paige/Arrow Team-Up will be coming soon starring the Dartsman and Captain & Captain Zero written by Steve Streeter, pencilled by Jim Saldana and inked by Jeff Wilcox, Nick Alenikov, Jr., Mark Heike and others. Also, Arrow Comics is expanding its staff with D. Goza writing Fiting Squad and (possibly) Steve Lightle writing Protectors. Arrow comics will also be in two more team-ups in the future, one with D. Goza and another team-up with Steve Streeter. Finally, Arrow will resume its publications with Fighting Squad #1 in mid-April and Challengers #3 in late May!



I can easily recall the sighe of my first candy cane. I can see clearly my mother hanging the red and white striped sticks evenly about a brightly tinseled Christmas Tree. The shape of the cane intrigued me. It was the same as that which supported my grandmother as she passed in front of my playpen. The sight of my grandma, as she was affectionately called, clutching her cane as if her life depended on it, sparked a desire that lives with me today.

I tried for weeks to find ample time beyond the vision of watchfull eyes. It seemed that I would never get close enough to satisfy my inner desire and learn first hand the meaning of grandma's grip. The closer I got to the tree, the stronger the rebuke. If I couldn't get to the tree, how could I ever get close enough to capture my prize.

When I saw my mother open the door and felt the chill of a Minnesota winter, I knew I had a chance. Being out from behind the bars of my crib, I moved deliberately towards my objective. But once at the tree, I realized that the red striped cane was beyond the reach of my outstretched hand. I lunged towards the cane, missed my target and grabbed only the tree. The ornaments were still falling and the limbs still wavering when my mother returned. "No!", was all I heard before the sting from my slapped hands reached my full senses. Immediately, I became confused. Why couldn't I have my cane when it seemed as if my grandmother couldn't live without hers? Not given the reason, I gathered my senses and awaited my next chance.

A few days passed. I was clothed and bundled to endure the wrath of frigid cold. My mother and I were joined by my father and sister. They took me in the car and traveled many miles to a strange house. I was frightened at first by the new surroundings. My fears soon vanished with the warm embrace of a recognized face, my grandma.

I was ushered into a large room where a crowd of friendly faces had gathered. A smile came to my lips when I noticed that this room had a brightly ornamented tree. I wondered if this tree would have my candied desire. I was able, on further inspecition of the room, to determine that not only were there canes on the tree but also minature versions better suited to my small hands, on a table easily within my reach.

I awaited my chance. The growing sounds of voices and laughter, the clatter of ice and glasses, and the movement of new and old faces supplied ample distraction. I knew the time had arrived for my first candy cane. I had little time to savor the accomplishment for the taste of victory was quickly made bitter by the fear that soon arrived. I had barely enjoyed the taste of a half eaten candy cane and felt the sticky, sweet remains in my hair and skin, when a loud voice and a strong hand quickly wisked me away and locked me in a crib like a common criminal. From that day on, I couldn't shake the feeling of guilt each time that I removed the wrapper of striped delight.

The guilt didn't deter me in later years. It served only to intensify my compulsive need. Grandma, too, seemed to develop a greater need for her cane. I wondered if she felt the same guilt as I did when she reached for her support? Our needs took on different forms. For me, my need was visualized by the consumption of multiple canes in a single sitting. For grandma, it was much more subtle. Although it escaped many, whitter knuckles reflected her increased dependancy.

In later years, my need for the candy cane diminished. No longer does the sight of a candy cane automatically create the compulsive urges of my youth. I'm sure my feelings have been tempered by the sound of the drill and the anticeptic smell of the dental office. Deception has also played an important part in the destruction of my image. Foam and plastic replicas now adorn the Christmas Trees and fraudulently represent the discovery of my youth.

Grandma lost need for her cane all together. As time passed, so did her strength. No longer could she hold the cane for which she had grown dependent. Seeing her laying in bed with the contentment of anticipated peace growing on her face with each passing week made the thought of her passing less painfull. I can recall both my grandma and her cane on her last day. Grandma was lying peacefully in her bed as the cane stood idly in the corner of the same room. The cane had lost its purpose, for grandma had no further need for physical support. The smile on her face and the reflections in her eyes told the story of her long life and of the one that was yet to be.

FAVORITES by Jeff Roberts

Here I am, again, back for a second try. I want to welcome each and every one of you to installment #2 of "Favorites". TFZ's own resident reader reaction column. I want to hear from all of you 400+ readers of TFZ. A reader reaction column depends on the responses from its readers which means - send me a letter telling me what you like. I'll include reactions in my next installment. Now, to the business at hand.

THE NEW X-MEN

There are countless comics books on the market today that make a valiant effort for realism in plot, dialogue and characterization. It has been speculated that the reason why Marvel Comcis are #1 in the industry is that most of the books contain believeable plots, intense characterization, realistic dialogue and mature themes.

There is no book on the market that presently has all those ingredients and uses them to the fullest more than the X-MEN, the book which recently was presented with the coveted "Eagle Award" for the best team and best comic. The dialogue, especially, impresses me the most. I have read no comic which has more realistic sounding scripting than X-men. You can actually believe that the characters are real just by reading what they say and by observing their reactions. That's what makes a good comic!

My favorite story is a hard choice to make. In its relatively short life span, the new X-Man book has presented many top-notch stories. After some deliberation, it would probably be issues 107 and 108, culminating a long, complicated subplot and featuring the Starjammers, a group of Galactic superheros.

The Starjammers are a unique band of superheros containing, among other heros, a reptilian alien with a furry, tribble-like companion resting on his shoulder and a female being who remarkably resembles POGO's mam' selle Hepzibah. The most interesting of the group is Corsair, a human who turns out to be Scott Summer's father. Hopefully, we'll see more of them soon!

There must have been two dozen other super-powered being introduced in these issues, being of all shapes and sizes - way too many to go into here. I suggest you procure copies of those issues. I guess the reason I liked this is because it combined comic books and science fiction, two forms of literature near and dear to my heart!

Number two yarn in my book was the recent Magneto storyline. Magneto had the X-Men kidnapped and took them to a hidden base immersed in a pit of molten lava. The base was held together by Magneto's own powers and, when the X-Men fought him, the whole base literally fell apart. Magneto escaped in good shape. The Beast and Phoenix got out but nearly froze to death. The rest were thrust down into the Savage Land. Beast and Phoenix thought they were dead (and vice versa) and have not yet found out differently. The characterization and dialogue in these two issues were some of the best this book has ever had!

Third favorite story is the plotline involving Wolverine and an intriguing group of Canadian super-heros. Issues 120 and 121 contained very good characterization of the new heros. I liked them all, but Sasquatch took the lead as my favorite. I think they deserve a tryout in Marvel Premier! (Definitely. . .Jay)

Number 2 would be #104, showing Magneto, surrounded by an intense magnetic field, being futilely attacked by the X-Men.

My third favorite cover is that of #108, whereon a gigantic fist scatters the members of the crew.

My choice of Favorite X-Men artist is not a hard one to make. John Byrne takes it all the way! Though I enjoyed Dave Cockrum's work, Byrne has a captivating style which caught my eye from the first! Usually, I don't like to go with the crowd, but Byrne is an exception! His art is a crowd pleaser, loved by many and I have to agree.

Favorite inker is another easy choice for me - it's definitely Terry Austin! I don't think I've ever seen an inker who complements an artist more than Austin! He and Bryne make one of the best artistic teams Marvel has ever had the privilege to have on staff.

Chris Claremont is the ultimate X-Men writer! He is the one who write those incredibly complicated stories, those intriguing plots, that realistic dialogue. I'm tempted to say that Claremont is the best writer Marvel has! X-Men is his labor of love, his pride and joy - and it shows!

My favorite letterer turns out to be Roger Stern who worked on some of the X-Men's best stories.

X-Men is a comic for the nature thinking fan who appreciates good, solid plot and story. The book started as a quarterly giant, then progressed into a regular size bi-monthly and now has evolved into a monthly with fans eagerly pouncing on each new issue!

Now, you tell me what you think. Drop me a line and tell me what you think of the X-Men. Tell me the following things: 1) Your three favorite stories and a line or two telling me why you liked them; 2) your three favorite covers; 3) favorite artist; 4) favorite writer; 5) favorite letterer; 6) favorite colorist; and 7) favorite editor. Also, if you disagree or agree with amy of the things I have said in my writing, let's discuss it, okay?! I'll include every response I possibly can next time. Let me hear from you!!!

Concerning Iron Man. . . .

One of the hardest things for someone to do is admit things didn't quite work out as planned. Response from my Iron Man poll wasn't quite what I expected. It was, in fact, rather poor. I received a grand total of <u>three</u> responses. Come on, people!! With over 400 reading each issue of TFZ, I can surely get more responses than that! <u>PLEASE</u>, take a little time to react! I'll answer every letter eventually, even if I can't include it because of space limitations. So, please write. If you don't, this column may have to be discontinued. I'd like to avoid that. Now, to the responses. . . . .

REED STURVIDANT who was the very first to reply says his favorite stories are: Iron Man #116 was his first choice. "A great team and story telling of Madame Masque's treachery made for a terrific book". Whitney Frost turning on Tony and the fact that she is Count Nefaria's daughter was completely unexpected on my part. His second choice is #109. His reasons for liking it: "The moon, guest stars, Infantino and a nice cover!" I especially liked Jack of Heart's role in the issue. Reed's #3 favorite was #114, the mounting suspense and the intriguing characters, Arsenel were his reasons for enjoying that one. His favorite covers are: Iron Man #100, 116 and 107; Favorite artist - John Rominta, Jr.; Inker - Bob Layton (these two "make a super team" said Reed); Writer - Bill Mantilo. Of the letters, colorist and editor, Reed comments, "All do a commendable and adequate job".

JOHN HARRIS, editor of The Comic Book Collector, responds this way: Writer - Mike Friedrich; Artist - George Tuska; Covers - #69, 70 and 100; Letterer - Tom Orzechowski; Colorist - George Roussos.

And finally Ralph Harding, a local fan and editor of a fine semi-pro SF & F magazine called The Diversifier, tells me, "My favorite shellhead artist was/is/shall always be Gene Colan!"

Thanks to these three and hope to hear from you for the next installment of Favorite: R.R. #1, c/o Gary Tharp, Shaols, Indiana 47581!

PEREZ INTERVIEW
cont. from page 23

see George Perez and say, "he's an artist, why are we going to buy a book he wrote?" So, there'll be some artwork there.

Another thing I'd like to do is lose weight. I've been on a diet for a while and I've been exercising like a madman - pumping iron, as it were - pumping flab, in my case. But I'll get it.

TFZ: We at TFZ would like to wish George Perez all of the best in the future. He certainly deserves it!!

Next Issue

THE FAN'S-ZINE #9 will feature:

Professional illustration by NEAL ADAMS, JOHN BYRNE, JOE STATON and more!!!

Fan illustration by ALAN J. HANL Y, WILLIE BLYBERG, EDDIE EDDINGS, DOUG HERRING, CARL TAYLOR, DOUG HAZLEWOOD, MARK HEIKE, WILLIE PEPPERS, RAFAEL KAYANAN, MIKE O'NEAL, SAM DE LA ROSA and more!!

Strips: The continuing sage of the QUAD-MAN and finally The Origin of Captain Kill!!

Features: Features on the Vision and Howard the Duck, the 3rd Annual Art Contest, a feature on Paige Comics, pro interview and more!!

Columns: "Illusions", Fanzine News and Reviews, "What the Pros are Really Like", "The Marriage Between Heaven and Hell" and "Media".

TFZ #9 will be out around the middle of August. The advertising deadline is July 10, 1979 and pre-publication price is only 75¢. After August 1st, the cost is $1.00!

SUBSCRIBE!! Keep TFZ going strong. Subscribe for three issues (that includes two regular issues and our giant annual and a free 25 word classified ad) for a mere $2.00!!!

Bye for now. . .

THE GRIPE PAGE

BATTLESTAR GALACTICA is being mistreated by the fans. . .they are yelling it's not as good as STAR WARS. . .it's missing something. . . Yes, it's missing something, a multi-million dollar budget and a wide screen. For TV it's damn good. If we fail with GALACTICA, the only place we will see good or even half good SF will be at the movies at $3.75 a person. It's nice for the free entertainment on TV. Let's back it (the rumors have it it's already too late). Let's face it, it's the best we will have on TV (unless it's a TV movie and then if Galactica dies, we can forget that).

Rick and Ruth Coy
113-1/2 Akron Street
Lake Worth, Florida 33460

I agree, but I still think BS is lacking the excitement Star Trek achieved. It's getting better and it is one of the better shows on TV, so I would be quite disappointed if it was cancelled!! Look for Rick and Ruth's ad for "Florida Fandom" elsewhere in this issue.

Classified Ads

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Brian R. Flynn asks:
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You have seen Mark Heike's work in this issue. Do you want to see more? Then read "EXPLORER ONE" in the latest issue of NIGHT COMICS (#286) published by SUNSET COMICS GANG, 9012 Evergreen Drive, Mentor, Ohio, 44060! And for those of you you read the stories, and savor the art of the man known as Filthy McNasty, then NIGHT 286 is for you too! "TO COLLECT", a 14-page story, occupies thelead spot in this issue, and I have assured ol"Nasty that he has a home at SUNSET, so you'll be seeing both his and Mark's work for many, many moons.

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please make all checks and/or money orders payable to Brian R. Flynn thank you!

LOOK

CONTENTS DEPT.

OK, I know you want to know exactly what's in each book, so here we go!

NIGHT COMICS 285(Dec.'78) -34 pages. Features "THE ALIEN", "INVASION" "OLNATCH THE BARBARIAN (by Paul Curtis),"DEATH IS A DREAM" (by Gary Dumm, and other features!

NIGHT COMICS 286(Mar.'79) -36 pages. Features "EXPLORER ONE" (drawn by Mark Heike), "SPACE WAR" (illustrated by Stan Bycko), and "TO COLLECT" (by ol'Nasty!)

WEIRD FANTASTIC TALES 2 (April'79)- features "THE WAITING ROOM, 2020AD", "POP","DOG OWNERS OF NEW YORK CITY","COLLISION(the beginning of a 250-page novel!)","DARK LADY #1", and "A FRIEND I HAVE GAINED", with many others!

Well, that's it! I hope you enjoyed this little ad, and I hope that you order from it. I really need 150 more subscribers to keep SUNSET going, and I think that readers of THE FAN'S ZINE CAN make the difference!

FANTAZINE

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This book is extremely rare and valuable, but I have the good fortune of living in a city where there is a copy in the rare book room of the public library. I'ss never forget the day I walked up there and asked to see it. The librarian opened the huge safe and returned shortly with this large volume. She mentioned to me that I was the second person who had asked for it recently and that the other individual had mimeographed the entire book! She left and I began to page through the work. It's hundreds of pages long and Casaubon's 50 page introduction is a pleading warning to use caution in traveling through the text. I read it and started in on Dee's notes. I like to think I am open-minded, less superstitious and a bit more curious than the average person. But I hadn't gone more than two paragraphs before the hair stood up on the back of my neck. Good God! It makes The Exorcist seem like a love story! It's taken over 300 years for the climate to be right, for (believe it or not) this book is now in such demand that it has been reprinted for sale at $100.00 a copy. Within its pages are found the dangerous Enochian Keys. Dee claimed they were the keys to geometrically expanding universes. Others say they are the keys to hell. No one doubts that, when used properly, the "keys" make "something happen". And many men and organizations have followed Dee and Kelly's path to greater power.

Contract Dee with the Indian mathematician, Ramanujan. He died in 1919 at the age of 32. From his very first exposure to education, his immense intelligence was obvious to his teachers. Within a few years, his reasoning ability had surpassed his instructors' and Ramanujan began to work on his own. He was given a book on pure and applied mathematics that contained over 6,000 theorems without proof. By the age of sixteen, he had demonstrated all the formulas. He continued this solitary quest, oblivious to wealth and fame, until a querying letter he had sent to G. Handy brought him to that famous British mathematician's notice. He journeyed to England and, in the stimulating atmosphere of Cambridge University and the Royal Society, his abilities blossomed into the contributions to the theory of Prime Numbers for which he is so famous. But what theorems, and probably to prove that a knot isn't a knot, or a doughnut is inside out at a topologist's convention. This kind of knowledge always seems to be of the Socratic type - something your immortal soul knows from a past life and collects. There is no persecution and no risk. Ramanujan was born with a certain chemistry. He had a surplus of some enzyme that people who can't balance their checkbooks lack.

Let me return to one of my earlier points - the paradoxical relationship between fear and power. Now, most sober people agree that the world could use a few changes. And, periodically, someone like Napoleon or Stalin raises an army powerful enough to impose the kind of changes they desire on millions of helpless peopld. Or sone extraordinary person like Moses or Mohammed comes along with a new religious interpretation of like and kills anyone who is not too interested in it. In science, people such as Newton and Einstein make quantum leaps in the understanding of natural phenomenon which enable lesser men to build better weapons. Time goes by and the statutes of Napoleon and Stalin are defaced. People forget what religious teachers taught and fall back into the worship of images.

(TO BE CONTINUED)

FEATURE STORY:

45

ADAM WARLOCK

Very few characters have enjoyed the "cult" like following that Adam Warlock has. Unfortunatly, a cult following isn't always enough to provide a company with the profit they need to keep a book going.

Adam Warlock or "Him" (As he was originally called way back in F.F. #67.) made his debut in the Fantastic Four #67. The similarities between the early Warlock ("Him") and the Silver Surfer are just to many to be be passed off as mere coincidence. As with the Surfer, the blind Alicia Masters was his first close human contact and friend and she realized that Warlock was a kind and just creature. Alicia Masters herself realized the similarities right away also. And then there's the matter of physical apperance. The Surfer is completely silver with only a pair of "trunk-type" pants, while the original Warlock was completly gold, with a similar pair of pants. (Does anyone know the real name of those?) And the two characters made their individual debuts a mere nineteen issues a part in the same book.

Alicia Masters was captured and taken to a place known simply as the "Beehive". It was later discovered that the three brilliant, but evil scientists had created "the cocoon" and the creature that laid within it - "Him". The scientists found out that the creature had a mind of it's own and wouldn't allow itself to be their instrument in the conquest of Earth, they attempted to destroy him. But, they failed and the cocoon opened to reveal "Him", who sensed the evil within the scientists and left after destroying the Beehive.

As time went on, "Him" changed to Adam Warlock and his power came from one of the legendary "Soul Gems" embedded in his forehead.

The "cosmic" side of Marvel which includes Adam Warlock, Drax the Destroyer, Captain Marvel and their deadliest enemy - Thanos, lord of Titan, the eighth moon of Saturn.

Throughout most of this decade a titanic struggle has been waged between the trio and Thanos. To gain power enough to rule the universe Thanos had been attempting to aquire all the soul gems. He traveled throughout the universe to collect five of the gems. One he stole from the Stranger, one he found abandoned by th Gardener (see Marvel Team-Up #55), and the others he found hidden. The sixth and final ge belonged to Adam Warlock and that particular ge had the power to steal

(continued on the next page)

WARLOCK (cont.)

souls, prehaps even Thanos' own black soul. The final confrontation between Thanos and Warlock was told in the now-classic Marvel Two-In-One Annual #2 and the Avengers Annual #7.

Thanos killed Warlock's only real friends Gamora and Pip the Troll. Thanos had such disregard for life that he slayed the two merely to anger Warlock enough to battle him so he could aquire the final gem and become totally invincible. Warlock battled alongside the Avengers until he was mentally, if not physically, defeated. Warlock allowed his own gem to consume him so he could finally be at peace with Gamora and Pip. As Thanos was at the brink of victory a reincarnation of Warlock arose like unto a Phoenix from the stone and turned Thanos into lifeless stone. Ironic as it seems, Drax the Destroyer, who lived merely to slay Thanos, tried to kill Captain Marvel for killing Thanos. Drax believed that his purpose and reason to live had died with Thanos.

Much of Warlock's exsistance was spent on Counter-Earth. Warlock's war against the evil Man-Beasts teamed Warlock with the Incredible Hulk. After being captured by the evil Man-Beasts the chaos caused by the Hulk freed him. An assault upon the evil Man-Beasts backfired and Warlock was seemingly executed and he returned to the cocoon that spawned him. In his anger, the Hulk vented it upon the leader of the evil Man-Beasts. The cocoon transformed Warlock into a being of even greater strength and he then transformed the Man-Beast back into his original form of a wolf and counter-earth was freed from his control.

A member of Warlock's supporting cast has become quite a popular character and could possibly be successful in a tryout in Marvel Premiere. Pip the Trool is enjoyable, but ceretainly less than unique than Warlock. Pip is a combination of Howard the Duck and the Beast. But, with all the characters in the Marvel universe that depress the reader (i.e. Spider-Man) another character like the short, stoogie packin' Pip the Troll is always welcomed.

A number of factors have attributed to Adam Warlock's cult-like following. Warlock is a pretty unique fellow as far as comic book characters go! (With the exception of the Silver Surfer similarities.) And, of course, the beautiful art by Jim Starlin added greatly to the enjoyment of the book. Many consider Starlin's Warlock one of the highlights of the Silver Age of Comics. (That is F.F. #1 on up to the present.) Many of the Warlock books probably are also appealing to those who are primarily SF fans, due to the fact that the stories involve space-orientated adventures.

Warlock is a breath of fresh air on the industry and the likes of him may not ever be seen again!!

by

Jay Van Bockel

HERRING
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